

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

December 20, 2011

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, as part of the family of God, is to proclaim and spread the word and work of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, by Eucharistic worship and by ministry to the world.

Welcome All Wonders!

Welcome all wonders in one sight.

Eternity shut in a span!

Summer in winter, day in night, heaven in earth, and God in man.

Great little one! Whose lowly birth lifts earth to heav'n, stoops heav'n to earth.

The words of the English poet Richard Crashaw bid us to open our hearts to the beauty and wonder of God's great love for us known because of Christmas. The incredible news is that when we can't seem to get to God, God gets to us. Christ is Emmanuel, God with us. And that is news worth pondering and embracing. This Saturday, in the beauty of our restored and candlelit church, with music and flowers and words that touch the deep places of our lives, we are assured that earth is lifted to heaven, because heaven has come to us. Perhaps that is why Christmas services draw us back to this holy place year after year. Perhaps that is why so many people tell me that these services speak to them the most. You and I need this message of hope. Our world needs this message of peace. All need the beauty and wonder offered to us at Christmas. With awe and wonder let us come and worship our God Incarnate. But with awe and wonder, let us welcome love into our lives each and every day. I hope to see you at one of our wonder-filled Christmastide services where we will joyfully worship in the beauty of holiness. May your heart and the hearts of those you love be lifted this Christmas. Blessings, joy and peace to all.

Hodie, hodie, Christs natus est!

Nativity's Christmastide Services

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. * - Children's Christmas Pageant & The Holy Eucharist

7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Festal Holy Eucharist

10:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Festal Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the church, *no nursery*

Wednesday, December 28

12:00 p.m. - Healing Service and Holy Eucharist (Bibb Chapel)

Thursday, December 29

6:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite II (Bibb Chapel)

Sunday, January 1

7:45 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, Rite I in Bibb Chapel

10:00 a.m.—Readings & Carols, Holy Eucharist, Rite II in the Church
no nursery or church school



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

WORSHIP

Times

beginning

January 8

(* Nursery available)

7:45 a.m.

Holy Eucharist
Rite I
(Bibb Chapel)

8:45 a.m.*

Holy Eucharist
Rite II and
Children's Chapel

11:00 a.m.*

Holy Eucharist
Rite II

Church School

10:00 a.m.*

THURSDAY:

6:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist
Rite II

PARISH NEWS and EVENTS

Helping the Church recognize our Bishops

There are several ways we can help recognize and honor our Bishops Henry Parsley and Kee Sloan in this period of transition. Ecclesiastical Gifts (i.e. church things!) are being made to recognize their leadership and Nativity would like to participate in these opportunities to honor both Bishops. Some of you may have already participated personally through some direct solicitations, but we want everyone in the parish to have the opportunity to participate. For Henry, we can help fund the frame for his official portrait given to the Diocese and his "purse." For Kee's installation as Diocesan Bishop, we can help fund his Episcopal Ring and Crozier, new vestments, his Discretionary Fund, and the Friday night Rehearsal Dinner for Kee and his family, the Presiding Bishop, and other dignitaries. If you haven't already participated in these opportunities, please consider. Make your tax deductible checks payable to The Church of the Nativity, noted BISHOPS' GIFTS.

Seekers Class 2012 will begin Sunday, January 8, 10:00 (room to be determined)

Seekers' Class



Clergy and lay members of our parish will be leading these classes designed to include church history, our prayer book and hymnal, our worship practices and etiquette, (like when to kneel or bow or make the sign of the cross!) and our views about scripture and the sacraments. Classes will also describe the many varieties of ministry opportunities available in the parish. This class for those

seeking membership with The Church of Nativity and for those who want to refresh or to learn more about the Episcopal Church.

The Rt. Rev'd Kee Sloan the Bishop of Alabama, will be with us on Sunday, June 10 2012, to celebrate Confirmation and to receive other new members.

You may pre-register by contacting linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org or by calling her at 256-533-2455. Pre-registration is not required. You may also register January 8.

THE SOURCE Books and Gifts Holiday Hours with lots of holiday gifts for everyone:

Saturday, Christmas Eve—December 24 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

CLOSED Christmas Day and Monday after Christmas Monday

Saturday, New Year's Eve—December 31 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

CLOSED New Year's Day and New Year Monday

Below are hours of operation beginning January 3

Regular Hours of Operation: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00-6:00 pm; Sunday, 9:00-3:00 pm

A letter written to Nativity Senior Warden and shared with Vestry last evening:

I may never be able to express my emotions as eloquently as I would love to during the troubled times my family has endured since the tornado. One fact I'm certain of is: God is in control! He answered my prayer that evening the tornado hit. I said, "God, please deliver us untouched from the storm in the Name of Jesus Christ and he did. All of us made it out alive and I thank Him. The days that followed were very trying but I kept the faith knowing God would provide. Soon after, God sent the Nativity Outreach persons. They have truly been a constant presence from day one. We are so blessed to have them in our lives. I love them endlessly. Thank you the entire Church for your out pouring love, support, dedication, and good will towards my family. I will never forget you as long as I live. Anyone and Everyone, the support was unbelievable

I ♥ U All

Your Adopted Tornado Family

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL and CHURCH SCHOOL resume January 8

Parish Financial Report Period Ending 11/30/2011



	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 88,183.82	\$ 99,620.88	\$ 980,597.73	\$ 1,095,830.08
Plate	\$ 4,931.00	\$ 4,610.38	\$ 51,784.75	\$ 50,714.58
Other Revenues	\$ 2,820.00	\$ 9,169.74	\$ 81,946.47	\$ 100,866.34
TOTAL	\$ 95,934.82	\$ 113,401.00	\$ 1,114,328.95	\$ 1,247,411.00
Diocesan, School of Theology, and Outreach	\$ 22,353.24	\$ 21,541.74	\$ 192,109.05	\$ 236,959.26
Personnel	\$ 57,635.88	\$ 62,558.33	\$ 691,972.47	\$ 688,141.67
Other Expenses	\$ 12,956.87	\$ 29,293.73	\$ 263,746.59	\$ 322,231.27
TOTAL	\$ 92,945.99	\$ 113,393.80	\$ 1,147,828.11	\$ 1,247,332.20
NET	\$ 2,988.83	\$ 7.20	\$ (33,499.16)	\$ 78.80

2012 Offering Envelopes will be available in Ridley Hall on Sunday, January 1 and January 8. If you have not requested envelopes you will need to contact Beverly Franklin 256-533-2455.

2012 Pledges by Dollar Range December 18, 2011

\$1,000 or <	78
\$1,001 - \$2,999.99	112
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	67
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	39
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	8
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	7
\$25,000 - \$39,999.99	3
\$40,000 or >	1
Total Number of Pledges	315
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,072,156.32
Average Pledge	\$3,403.67

IRS Regulations for reporting year-end contributions:

Offerings and donations must be postmarked no later than December 31 to be considered for 2011 tax purposes. Donations brought to the church office must be brought no later than the close of the day (12:30 p.m.) December 30 or you may use the church office door drop box. Offerings and donations placed in alms basket on January 1 will be posted as 2012 contribution regardless of check date. If you have questions regarding your contribution, please contact Beverly Franklin, Bookkeeper 256-533-2455.

ALTAR FLOWERS 2012 DEDICATION FORM

If you are interested in dedicating **Altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2012**, please complete and mail this form with your check made out to "Flower Guild" and mail to: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 539-2673.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, THANK YOU.

2012 Altar Flower Order Form

Altar Flowers are \$40 or \$20 for shared dedications

Date desired _____

Your Name _____

Phone # _____ Would you share a dedication? _____

Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin? _____

All dedications read "To the glory of God and... *in loving memory of* or *in thanksgiving for* or *in celebration of...*"

Please be specific by underlining or circling your desired dedication above:

Name for this altar flower dedication: _____

Stewardship of Creation tip for December 21

How to have a 'greener' holiday! Are you fretting that the tree may be the only part of the holiday season that is green? Experts say household waste often increases more than 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's. That means the holidays can have a negative impact on the environment. However, there are ways to make the holidays more environmentally friendly. **Small changes to our routines can help make the holiday season more fun and less wasteful.**

So here are some easy and very doable tips for "greening" the holidays this season:

- Instead of buying decor, primarily use clippings from your yard. Leaves and branches can make the most beautiful, natural decor—and you get some of your pruning done in the process!
- Collect boxes that would otherwise be put in the recycling and use them for packing Christmas presents you send to friends or give to family.
- Use old paper grocery bags as wrapping paper. You can decorate the paper with stencils and paint, and it may end up being nicer than the gift! Also, re-use gift bags, or use old comics as wrapping paper. [See the Sunday Dec 18th Huntsville Times, page E1, "It's a Wrap" for a page especially designed to be used for gift-wrap.](#)
- Shop as locally as possible for Christmas. Another goal is not to use any plastic bags for gift shopping – remember to take re-usable bags into the stores when you are doing shopping in addition to grocery shopping. *A little one that you can stash inside its own small storage bag and keep in your purse or car is great to have handy for miscellaneous shopping excursions.*
- Take your Christmas tree to have it mulched at the Botanical Garden mulch pile after you're done with it.
- Instead of buying candles or Plug-Ins or using other synthetic chemicals, simmer orange slices and cinnamon sticks in a pot on your stove. This does require the use of energy, but it's not something that is plugged in all day, nor does it run out so quickly that you have to constantly repurchase and generate trash. When you are through with it, pour the whole pot's contents into your compost.
- As your tree lights fail over time, replace them with more energy-efficient strands.
- And the last and perhaps best tip: Skip a present or two to children or grandchildren in favor of making a contribution to your loved one's favorite charity. This reduces waste and helps make the holidays a little nicer for someone in need. A fun tradition could be established by letting each person choose the charity or non-profit from an assortment of brochures or pamphlets telling about the work each group does.

Have a very Green, very Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL resumes January 8, 10:00 a.m. * for all ages.

Seeker's Class (aka Adult Confirmation) will meet in Bibb Chapel

The Zimmerman Bible Class meets in Library with a study of Romans

Book Study Class will review lessons from *Love Wins* (author Bob Bell) meets Joffrion Hall 2 East

The Spirituality of One's Own Calling will meet in Ridley Hall

Where do you think your creativity comes from? Please join a series of class discussions with speakers with varied creative talents, musical and artistic abilities, writing skills and professional accomplishments as we discover the relation between what you do and your faith.

All Things Spiritual Class meets in Joffrion 2 West

A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming Faith by Brian McLaren

LOOKING FOR A WEEKDAY/EVENING STUDY GROUP?

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Wednesday 7:15 a.m. (Library)

The Good Book Women's Bible Study

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. (Library)

Reflections Bible Study (nursery available)

Thursday 9:15 a.m. (Joffrion 2 East)

Discerning the Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks (author Prescella Shirer Nov 2006)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE January 2012, published 12/21/11

SUNDAY, January 1, Christmas Readings & Carols

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Anderson & Landry – out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Akin	Akin	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
10:00 AM	Akin	N/A	Mike Knight, Cheryl Watts, Rich Goodwin, Barbara Buice	Martha Joffrion, Ed Greene, Lee Hicklen, Sally Ann Culver, Ronnie Rogers	Lane Mickle

WEDNESDAY, January 4, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Landry		Cheryl Watts

THURSDAY, January 5, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 PM	Landry	

SUNDAY, January 8, The First Sunday after Epiphany, The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 AM		Anderson	Pearline Gilpin, Mike Ward	Cassidy Bates	Virginia Kobler
11:00 AM		Anderson	Roy Gowman, Ed Vaughn	Lee Coggins, Elaine Hamner	RuthAnn Haymes

WEDNESDAY, January 11, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Akin		Don Askins

THURSDAY, January 12, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 PM	Anderson	

SUNDAY, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Akin	Akin	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 AM		Akin	Warren Vann, Lane Mickle	Amy Creech, Melissa Kirkindall	Lee Hicklen
11:00 AM		Akin	Walter Thames, Janet Robbins	Chris Jackson, Ed Vaughn	Martha Bosworth

WEDNESDAY, January 18 , HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Anderson		Marilyn Lands

THURSDAY, January 19, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 PM	Akin	

SUNDAY, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Anderson & Akin – out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	McCown	McCown	John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 AM	Landry	McCown	Lee Hicklen, Robert Dunn, Merrilee Allen	Stacy Moon, Buddy Moon	Clay Sherrill
11:00 AM	Landry	McCown	Robin Cozby, Lea Ellison, Peter Cobun	Ted Briggs, Pamela Briggs	Don Askins

WEDNESDAY, January 25, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Landry		Mary Hendricks

THURSDAY, January 26, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 PM	Landry	

SUNDAY, January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Akin out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 AM		Anderson	Lewie Bates, Charlie Warren, Cheryl Watts	Lane Mickle, Lee Hicklen	Shirley Hale
11:00 AM		Anderson	Don Askins, Marilyn Lands, Pat Sampson	Walter Thames, Merrilee Allen	Sally Ann Culver

USHERS

8:45	Russ McDonald, Robert Rodgers, Lewie Bates, Lynn Bates, Bill Giardini, Sparks Ford
11:00	

ALTAR GUILD

7	Kakki Brooks, Lea Ann Barnett, Flo Stockton, Caffey Litkenhous, Kathryn Mahoney, Sue Johnson	1 4	Emily Moody, Laura Innes, Nancy Colin, Judy Heacock, Beth Pugh, Linda Watts
21	Louise Reynolds, Marcia Machek, Sara Little, Debbie Joyner, Rose Anne Shearer, Renee Elliott, Connie Stephenson	2 8	Wanda Cobb, Alice Lanier, Suzy Naumann, Elaine Calhoun, Kakki Brooks, Judy Vann, Jewell Reynolds

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE January 2012

January 1

10:00 NOTE DIFFERENT SERVICE TIME FOR THIS SUNDAY!!

C Andrew Dunn
T Jordan Dunn, Jackson Grelier
S Rachel Joffrion
AS Maria Caprio

January 8

8:45	11:00
C M Sharp, K Walker	C MM Ragland, NK Baugher
T G Sharp, R Walker	T JS Evans, Emily Evans
T L Luther, A Young	T Reece Baugher, P Stockton
S L Sharp	S SL Miller
AS Neill Luther	AS Steuart Evans

January 15

8:45	11:00
C I Braudaway, N Carter	C R Quillen, P Naumann
T L Markwalter, J Anglin	T F Naumann, H Shrout
T C Bates,	T Evan Ellison, Will Ellison
S Spencer Anglin	S Patrick Quillen
AS Trace Markwalter	AS Emily Ellison

January 22

8:45	11:00
C C Kelly, T King	C Harrison Hunter, E Moody
T HB Bryant, F Aldag	T A Taylor, E Nelson
T C Rodgers, P Ford	T C Nelson, W Hunter
S S Rodgers	S B Sherrill
AS KN Hall	AS J Cozby

January 29

8:45	11:00
C Harry Hudson, C McDonald	C Claire Douthit, Shep O'Neal
T A Starnes, SG Moore	T S Watson, J Laney
T Tindall Moring, M Walker	T S O'Neal, Jordan Dunn
S K Correale	S Julie DiFranco
AS Hanly Ward	AS K Schneider

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Martha Banks, Alice Heflin, Elsie Olsen, Nativity's Tornado Family, Robert Boerner, Eileen Sullivan, Judith Douthit Cather, Gilda May, Ernie Limbo, Bill Marsh, Donald Perry, Angel Colin, Julie Kirk, Leigh Wahl, Scott Shelton, Joy Gass, Sara Welch, Emile Joffrion, John, Nancy Kelly.

We pray for those in Military Service & those serving with the Peace Corps:

Kuwait: Spencer Colin, Greg Riddle;
Afghanistan: Blake Lane The Gambia,
West Africa: Marisa Benzle

We pray for the departed:

Billy Johnston, Sr., parishioner; father of Pattie Cline and Bill Johnston, Jr.

We give thanks for the marriage of

Christine Brown and Michael Wood,
December 17 married at Church of the Nativity.

We give thanks for the birthdays of our children:

1/2	Noell Carter
1/5	Jordan Dunn

Nativity Holy Land trip itinerary for October 2012

Rector Andy Anderson and Academy Travel will lead a trip to the Holy Land. Below is information to help you in making your decision to participate:

Dates: October 7-22, 2012

Cost: approximately \$3600 per person for Land Arrangements for 15 days, 14 nights

Deposit: \$500 pp—fully refundable until airline tickets secured

(Does not including international airfare from Huntsville too early to determine pricing)

Accommodation per person in twin room with private bathroom :

Amman – 1 night Land Mark Hotel Petra - 2 nights (five star hotel)

Dead Sea - 1 night Ein Gedi Kibbutz Tiberias - 5 nights Scotts Hotel

Jerusalem – 5 nights Notre Dame

Three meals daily in Jordan; Two meals daily in Israel

All entrances to the museums/sites as indicated in the itinerary.

Porterage fees and guiding fees

Basic Travel Insurance

Not Included: Cancellation Insurance – available through Academy Travel, Laundry, telephone calls and other items of a personal nature, Gratuity for guides and drivers .Single Room Supplement: Approximately \$1000

If interested, please call the parish office front desk volunteer at 256-533-2455 or via e-mail to linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org to get on the list. Deposit deadlines, etc. will be announced later.

STEEPLE SCHEDULE

The Steeple is published each
1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

To submit events or articles,
you may bring them to Linda
Wheeler in the church office or
email:

linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is
Monday noon, January 2.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Mary Anne Akin
Associate

The Rev'd Brad Landry
Associate

The Rev'd Jeannie Robison
Deacon

Suzanne Purtee
Organist/Choirmaster

Lane Tutt
Adult Christian Formation

Liz Williams
Youth Christian Formation

Elizabeth Foster
Children's Formation

Cassie Chenoweth
Assistant Children's Formation

Audrey Clayton
Nursery Coordinator

John Buyse
Property Manager

Al Ford
Sexton

Sally Stockton
Kitchen Coordinator

Beverly Franklin
Bookkeeper/Business Mgr

Connie Gadomski
Worship & Ministry Assistant

Linda Wheeler
Assistant to the Rector
Communication/Publication Admin

Prentice White
Verger/Wedding Coordinator

Vestry
Bland Warren
Senior Warden

Pat Goodson
Junior Warden

Russ Alexander
Treasurer

Donna Joffrion
Clerk

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

A member of the clergy is
on call each week.

If you need assistance from a priest
outside office hours, the priest on
call will respond to your page.

The number to call *In Case of an
Emergency Only* is 256-533-7007.
All other calls should be directed to
church phone 256-533-2455
and follow the prompts to leave a
message for a priest to respond.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

208 Eustis Ave. SE Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455 Fax: 256-533-2374

www.nativity-hsv.org

Thank you from your
Church Office Administrative Staff

During this season we thank you for the gifts and your
encouragement and support all year.

We are blessed to serve with you in His Service.

Our greeting to you is this Irish Christmas Blessing:



Beverly, Connie, and Linda